

AUGUST 11, 2019
NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

Our God is the God of hope and promise.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven
Monday	Genesis 15:1-6	God's covenant with Abram
Tuesday	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	The meaning of faith
Wednesday	James 2:14-26	Faith without works is dead
Thursday	Romans 1:8-17	The power of the gospel
Friday	1 Timothy 6:11-19	The good fight of faith
Saturday	Psalms 33:12-22	Trust only in God
Sunday	Luke 12:49-56	Following Jesus causes division

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **Hebrews 11:1 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to trust the assurances you give us that we may lead lives of conviction shaped by your kingdom of grace. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Thank you for filling our bodies with food and our hearts with trust in you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of steadfast love be upon you and give you hope. (Psalm 33:22)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Have No Fear, Little Flock



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does it mean when someone promises to do something for you?
- What is something you hope for? How is faith like hope?
- How does hope in God's promises give you strength and courage for each day?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 12:32-40.

In Luke you have the heart of God's care expressed directly and simply on the lips of Jesus: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (v. 32). It is immediately followed by strong marching orders: sell what you have and give to the poor; be ready for action; don't be in the dark; be alert because you don't know when the Son of Man is coming. Clearly, these words are not cause for fear, but for readiness for life in the kingdom. We are part of God's "little flock" that is cared for with abundant hope and promise from God. What more can we ask for? This life of faith does not lead to complacency but action, including the action of giving what you have to others. Doing that places your heart squarely in the kingdom because where your treasure is—where you invest your wealth—shapes your heart to be loyal to that cause (v. 34). When you want to feel the love of God in your heart, you give to causes consistent with Mary's description of God who "lifted up the lowly; he . . . filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:52b-53). In what ways can you give your treasure and have your heart renewed?

Pray: God of hope and promise, we thank you for your words of comfort and assurance and for your words of action that celebrate life in your kingdom, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE



In James 2:14-26 we learn that faith without works is dead and that works without faith is also dead. If you have not as yet seen the movie *Amazing Grace*, make time to do so—it illustrates how a person of faith, William Wilberforce, was used by God to change the world for the better! Who have been examples of faith through their actions to you? Write letters to these people, thanking them for their example.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Luke 12:35, Jesus told his followers to be dressed for action and have their lamps lit to wait for him like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding party. Gather a candle for each member of your family. When you sit down for meals this week, light the candles and say these words:

Leader: Be dressed and ready for service and keep your lamps burning.

Response: For Jesus, our master, is coming.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org